

Message Text

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ACTION IO-13

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PASS IO/SCT

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E.O. 11652: N/A
TAGS: AORG, IAEA, TECH, PARM
SUBJECT: PROPOSAL BY IAEA DIRECTOR GENERAL FOR MEETING OF
SENIOR POLICY MAKERS TO ADVISE AGENCY ON REPROCESSING
AND WASTE MANAGEMENT

1. FOLLOWING LETTER FROM DG EKLUND WAS HAND-
DELIVERED TO ME TODAY (SALUTATION AND COMPLIMENTARY
CLOSE OMITTED):

QUTOE. IN THE LAST FEW YEARS, I HAVE BECOME
MORE AND MORE CONCERNED ABOUT THE LACK OF COHERENT
POLICIES IN REGARD TO REPROCESSING OF SPENT FUEL
AND DISPOSAL OF NUCLEAR WASTE. THIS CONCERN, WHICH
IS SHARED BY MANY, WILL BE REFLECTED IN THE AGENDA
FOR THE SALZBURG CONFERENCE ON NUCLEAR POWER AND ITS
FUEL CYCLE TO BE HELD IN MAY 1977, DURING WHICH SOME
ASPECTS OF THE PROBLEMS WILL BE EXAMINED.
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QUOTE. INDUSTRY AND GOVERNEMENT EXPERTS, AS WELL
AS CRITICS OF NUCLEAR POWER, HAVE RECOGNIZED FOR
SOME TIME THAT UNRESOLVED PROBLEMS AND INDECISION
IN THE REPROCESSING AND WASTE MANAGEMENT AREAS ARE
SEVERELY RETARDING THE DEVELOPMENT OF AN OTHERWISE

ACCEPTABLE AND PROMISING TECHNOLOGY. I THEREFORE FEEL THAT IT WOULD BE TIMELY FOR THE AGENCY TO INFORM ITSELF BETTER OF VARIOUS NATIONAL POLICIES ON REPROCESSING AND WASTE MANAGEMENT AND THUS ENABLE IT TO FORMULATE ADVICE ON A WORLD NUCLEAR POLICY COVERING THESE FIELDS.

QUOTE. THE SITUATION AT THE INTERNATIONAL LEVEL HAS BECOME SOMEWHAT CONFUSED. ONE MEMBER STATE IS CONSIDERING A POLICY UNDER WHICH REPROCESSING WOULD ONLY BE UNDERTAKEN AFTER A THOROUGH STUDY OF ITS IMPLICATIONS, NOT ONLY FROM THE TECHNICAL AND ECONOMIC STANDPOINT, BUT ALSO IN RELATION TO THE POLITICAL ASPECTS. THE USE OF PLUTONIUM FOR RECYCLING IN THERMAL REACTORS AND ITS USE IN BREEDERS MIGHT, UNDER SUCH A POLICY, BE VERY MUCH DELAYED. AT THE SAME TIME, A NUMBER OF OTHER COUNTRIES ADVANCED IN NUCLEAR ENERGY TECHNOLOGY CONSIDER REPROCESSING ALMOST AS A SINE QUA NON FROM AN ECONOMIC POINT OF VIEW AND IN RELATION TO THE OPTIMUM UTILIZATION OF URANIUM RESOURCES AVAILABLE AS WELL AS A PRE-REQUISITE FOR WASTE DISPOSAL.

QUOTE. BESIDES REPROCESSING AND WASTE DISPOSAL, SOLUTIONS MUST BE FOUND TO THE PROBLEMS OF DECOMMISSIONING OF NUCLEAR FACILITIES, AND THE RECYCLING OF DECONTAMINATED MATERIALS.

QUOTE. I AM NOT CONVINCED THAT INTERNATIONAL UNCLASSIFIED

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CONSENSUS CAN BE REACHED QUICKLY ON ANY OF THE POINTS MENTIONED ABOVE, BUT I BELIEVE THAT A START MUST CERTAINLY BE MADE.

QUOTE. IN VIEW OF THE FOREGOING, I WOULD VERY MUCH APPRECIATE THE ADVICE OF A SMALL NUMBER OF SENIOR POLICY MAKERS ON THE MATTERS REFERRED TO. THIS COULD BE ACHIEVED BY HOLDING A MEETING IN VIENNA (FOR EXAMPLE, AFTER THE NEXT MEETING OF THE IAEA'S BOARD OF GOVERNORS, WHICH IS SCHEDULED FOR 22-25 FEBRUARY 1977) TO WHICH I HOPE YOUR GOVERNMENT WILL NOMINATE A PARTICIPANT. I WOULD SUGGEST THAT THE MEETING START ON MONDAY, 28 FEBRUARY IN THE AFTERNOON WITH A WORKING DINNER AND THAT IT BE CONCLUDED THE FOLLOWING DAY. IF A CONSENSUS CAN BE REACHED, THE CONCLUSIONS COULD BE FORMULATED AS ADVICE TO ME AND FORWARDED TO THE BOARD OF GOVERNORS AS AN INFORMATION PAPER.

QUOTE. THE AGENCY WILL, OF COURSE, PAY TRAVEL COSTS (FIRST CLASS) AND THREE DAYS PER DIEM FOR THE PARTICIPANT DESIGNATED.

QUOTE. I ATTACH A LIST OF ADDRESSEES WHO WILL RECIEVE THIS LETTER AS WELL AS THE TERMS OF REFERENCE FOR THE MEETING. END QUOTE.

2. OTHER ADDRESSEES WERE ANDRE GIRAUD (FRANCE), HOMI SETHNA (INDIA), SIR JOHN HILL (U.K.), I. MOROKHOV (USSR), C. JULIUS HOFFMANN (FRG RESREP), AMB. T. CARTER (CANADIAN RES REP), AMB. Y. KATORI (JAPANESE RESREP), AMB. C. WOLLIN (SWEDISH RESREP). SETHNA, HILL AND MOROKHOV HAVE ALREADY AGREED TO ATTEND MEETING PERSONALLY.

3. TERMS OF REFERENCE FOR MEETING ARE AS FOLLOWS:
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QUTOE. - TO REVIEW THE FULE CYCLE OPTIONS AND THE LIKELY FUTURE POLICIES OF THE MAIN NUCLEAR INDUSTRIAL COUNTRIES IN REGARD TO THE COMMERCIAL RE-PROCESSING OF SPENT FUEL AND THE MANAGEMENT/DISPOSAL OF NUCLEAR WASTES.

- TO EXCHANGE VIEWS ON THE ADVISABILITY OF ADDITIONAL INTERNATIONAL REGULATORY, CONTROL OR OPERATIONAL MEASURES REGARDING THE NUCLEAR FUEL CYCLE, HAVING IN MIND:

- ECONOMIC ASPECTS

- ENERGY CONSERVATION ASPECTS

- PROBLEMS OF PROLIFERATION AND PHYSICAL SECURITY

- HEALTH AND ENVIRONMENTAL RISKS AND IMPACT ON SOCIETY

- TO ADVISE THE DIRECTOR GENERAL AS TO THE BROAD LINES OF GUIDANCE THAT THE AGENCY CAN GIVE TO ITS MEMBER STATES AT THIS TIME CONCERNING THE FUTURE AVAILABILITY OF COMMERCIAL REPROCESSING SERVICES AND FUTURE TRENDS IN THIS REGARD, THE PROSPECTS FOR AND THE MOST PROMISSING APPROACHES TO A SOLUTION OF THE NUCLEAR WASTE DISPOSAL

PROBLEM. END QUOTE.

4. MISSION RECOMMENDS U.S. GOVERNOR, WHO WILL ATEND
BG MEETING, BE NAMED U.S. PARTICIPANT AT THIS MEETING
ALSO.

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5. COPY OF LETTER WITH ATTACHMENTS POUCHED CAVANAUGH/
IO/SCT. PLEASE ADVISE. STONE

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NNN

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